

## **MENDESELLA JARAGUAIENSIS, A NEW SPECIES OF MENDESELLINE WASP (HYMENOPTERA: BRACONIDAE) FROM BRAZIL<sup>1</sup>**

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**ABSTRACT.** A new species from the genus *Mendesella*, subfamily Mendesellinae, is proposed and described. The differences from other species of *Mendesella* are discussed. The main distinct characters are illustrated. The new species was collected by Malaise trap, in March 1999, in the Atlantic forest of Jaragua State Park, São Paulo/SP-Brazil.

Species in the genus *Mendesella* have the appearance of fulvous, somewhat slender Cardiochilinae (Hymenoptera: Braconidae). There are four species of this genus (*M. amazonica*, in Bolivia; *M. braziliensis*, in Brazil, *M. magna*, in Ecuador and *M. orianae* in Costa Rica), occurring in South (Whitfield & Mason, 1994) and Central America (Valério & Whitfield, 2000). They are considered rare and are rarely collected (Whitfield & Mason, 1994). Unlike other close relatives of Cardiochilinae and Mendesellinae, the spiracles of the first metasomal tergum are not separated off on laterotergites. In addition, a distinctive characteristic is the sculpturing of metasomal tergite 1 by the dorsal and dorsolateral carinae. For morphological terms see Whitfield & Mason (1994).

The material was collected in the Atlantic forest of Jaragua State Park, São Paulo, SP, Brazil using a Malaise trap, on March 3, 1999. The Brazilian Atlantic forest is of special interest as an endangered habitat.

The following key includes all described New World species of the genus *Mendesella*, but treats only females:

### **Key to the species of the genus *Mendesella* (females)**

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Dorsal carinae incomplete and discontinuous .....  | <i>M. orianae</i>              |
| Dorsal carinae complete to at least near apex .....   | 2                              |
| 2. Dorsal carinae of first metasomal tergite converging near apex .....   | <i>M. magna</i>                |
| Dorsal carinae of first metasomal tergite closest to one another<br>at about midlength of tergite .....   | 3                              |
| 3. Dorsal carinae of first tergite metasomal closest to one another at<br>midlength and remaining close to one another apically .....   | <i>M. jaraguaiensis</i> sp. n. |
| Dorsal carinae of first tergite metasomal closest to one another<br>centrally, diverging apically .....   | 4                              |
| 4. Mesopleuron darkened with brownish infuscation; propodeum with<br>narrow, anteriorly narrowing areolar area amidst coarse sculpturing;<br>ovipositor sheaths about 1.3 x as long as hind tibia ..... | <i>M. braziliensis</i>         |

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Mesopleuron mostly or entirely fulvous; propodeum with nearly parallel-side areola set on weakly roughened background; ovipositor sheaths 2.0 x as long as hind tibia ..... *M. amazonica*

***Mendesella jaraguaiensis* Yamada & Penteadó Dias, NEW SPECIES**

(Figures 1-4)

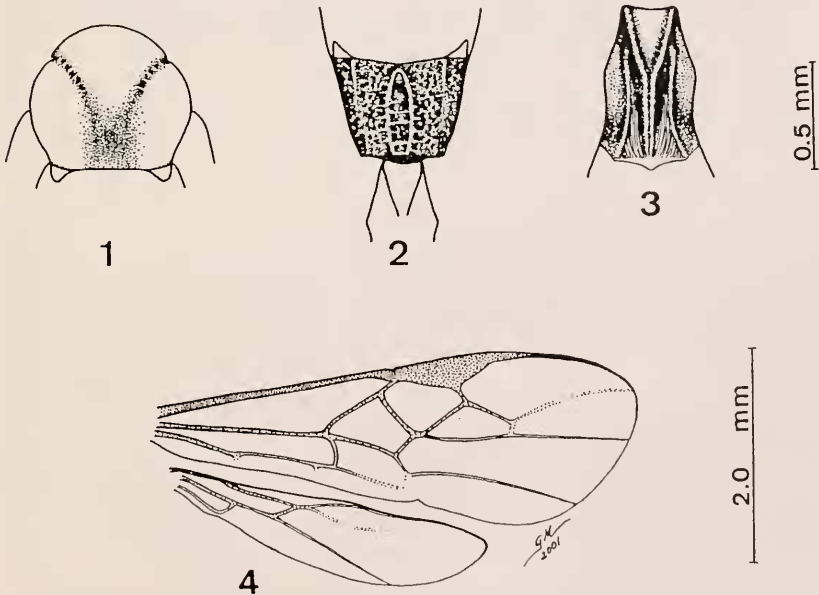
**Holotype:** Flagellomeres: 38. Face and clypeus polished, finely punctate; vertex, subgena and postocciput weakly punctate and polished. Mesoscutum (fig. 1) hairy, weakly punctate and polished; notauli anteriorly deep and crenulate, but posteriorly shallow and smooth, opening into a smooth medial depressed area. Posterior scutellar depression wider than apex of scutellum and with a weak medial costula. Dorsal view of the propodeum as in figure 2.

Metasomal tergite 1 (fig. 3) widened apically, but slightly narrower medially than apically; apex 1.4x as long as wide. Dorsolateral carinae strongly protruding and curving close to one another at midlength, remaining close to one to another apically. Surface of tergite weakly aciculate, part between dorsolateral carinae and lateral carinae rugulopunctate in the base and aciculate apically. Wings with veins 3M and 3CU tubular, as in figure 4.

Ovipositor sheath 1.5 x as long as hind tibia; ovipositor nearly straight with 2 subapical sinuations and deflecting down at apex.

Body length 5-6 mm and ovipositor, 2.8mm.

**Color:** fulvous, but antennae, occipital triangle, mesonotal lobes, tegula, hind tarsi, apex of hind tibia and sheath, blackish.



Figs. 1-4. *Mendesella jaraguaiensis* sp n. 1, Mesoscutum; 2, Propodeum; 3, Metasomal tergite 1; 4, Wings.

**Distribution:** Jaragua State Park, São Paulo, SP, Brazil.

**Holotype.** 1 female, Jaragua State Park, SP, Brazil. March, 3, 1999; M. V. Yamada col. deposited in DCBU (Universidade Federal de São Carlos – Departamento de Ecologia e Biologia Evolutiva).

**Etymology.** The name of the species refers to Jaragua State Park, where the specimen was collected.

**Comments.** The new species differs especially strikingly from others in the relative positions of the dorsal carinae.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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